

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04  
NSAE-00 SIL-01 USPS-01 /034 W  
-----047979 030121Z /64  
R 021709Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4309  
AMCONSUL MONTREAL  
ALL OTHER CANADIAN CONSULS (BY POUCH)

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E.O. 11652:N/A  
TAGS: ELAB, CA  
SUBJECT: POSTAL UNION CONVENTION REAFFIRMS MILITANCY

1. CANADIAN UNION OF POSTAL WORKERS (CUPW), COMPRISING 22,000 CLERKS AND SORTERS, HELD ITS TRIENNIAL CONVENTION LAST WEEK IN HALIFAX. ELECTION OF 41-YEAR-OLD CUPW EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, AND CHIEF NEGOTIATOR, JEAN CLAUDE PARROT (WHO BEGAN HIS UNION CAREER IN RADICAL MONTREAL LOCAL) TO SUCCEED JOE DAVIDSON AS PRESIDENT, AS WELL AS RADICAL RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED, CONFIRM CUPW'S CONFRONTATIONAL TACTICS WILL BE CONTINUED. RENEGOTIATION OF COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT WHICH EXPIRED JUNE 30 WILL BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT AND COULD LEAD TO ANOTHER WORK STOPPAGE SIMILAR TO THE 1975 STRIKE THAT PRECEDED SIGNING OF PREVIOUS CONTRACT.

2. CUPW CONVENTION IMPOSED SEVERE RESTRICTIONS ON ITS NEGOTIATING TEAM BY INSISTING AS PRECONDITION OF NEW AGREEMENT THAT (A) 28 MEMBERS OF MONTREAL LOCAL WHO DESTROYED PROPERTY DURING 1975 DISPUTE BE REINSTATED; (B) INDEFINITE SUSPENSION OF SHERBROOKE LOCAL PRESIDENT, WHO LED WILDCAT STRIKE RECENTLY, BE WITHDRAWN; (C) TEM-  
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PORARY INJUNCTION EXPIRING AUGUST 22 AGAINST 1,600-MEMBER OTTAWA LOCAL (WHICH HAD CONDUCTED WEEK-LONG WILDCAT STRIKE DURING CONVENTION BECAUSE POST OFFICE HIRED CASUAL WORKERS WHEN PERMANENT WORKERS REFUSED EXTRA OVERTIME) BE WITHDRAWN AT EXPIRATION DATE. CONVENTION MANDATE FULLY ENDORSED UNION NEGOTIATORS' INSISTENCE THAT NEW CONTRACT MUST CONTAIN MORE SPECIFIC AND ENFORCE-

ABLE CLAUSES AGAINST HIRING OF CASUAL LABOR AND PROTECTION AGAINST ADVERSE EFFECTS OF TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGES. LATTER ISSUE HAS BEEN CONTENTIOUS ONE DURING LIFE OF EXPIRED AGREEMENT BECAUSE POST OFFICE HAD NEITHER LIVED UP TO LETTER NOR INTENT OF CONTRACT.

3. OTHER CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS ALSO REFLECTED RADICAL MILITANCY OF CUPW. MOTION TO MERGE AGAIN WITH MODERATE LETTER CARRIERS UNION WAS DEFEATED BY TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY BECAUSE CARRIERS ARE TOO "CHICKEN". CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS, TO WHICH CUPW IS AFFILIATED, WAS STRONGLY ATTACKED FOR ITS PARTICIPATION WITH GOC AND BUSINESS IN DISCUSSIONS ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FUTURE OF CANADA AS BEING "A BETRAYAL OF THE PRINCIPLES OF THE LABOR MOVEMENT". CLC WAS ALSO CRITICIZED FOR ACCEPTING CANADIAN DOLLARS 10 MILLION "HUSH MONEY" FROM GOC FOR LABOR EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

4. RESOLUTION ON QUEBEC ENDORSED "RIGHT OF QUEBEC RESIDENTS TO DETERMINE THEIR OWN FUTURE IN CONFEDERATION" THEREBY REFUSING TO ADOPT EITHER PRO OR ANTI-SEPARATIST POSTURE. HOWEVER, RESOLUTION WAS QUITE SPECIFIC ON MAINTAINING CUPW UNITY BECAUSE AS CLEMENT MOREL, DIRECTOR OF UNION'S QUEBEC REGION, PUT IT "FROM TRADE UNION POINT OF VIEW THERE SHOULD NOT BE ANY TERRITORIAL BOUNDARIES".

5. COMMENT: OTTAWA LOCAL OF CUPW IS OBEYING COURT INJUNCTION SO THAT MAIL DELIVERIES ARE BACK TO NORMAL, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AT LEAST UNTIL INJUNCTION EXPIRES AUGUST 22. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER CONTRACT RENEWAL CAN BE ACHIEVED WITHOUT WORKSTOPPAGES, GIVEN TRADITIONALLY STRAINED LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS BETWEEN POST OFFICE AND CUPW. ENDERS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** LABOR UNIONS, POSTAL SERVICE, MEETING REPORTS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Subject:** POSTAL UNION CONVENTION REAFFIRMS MILITANCY  
**TAGS:** ELAB, CA  
**To:** STATE MONTREAL  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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